

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION

TECHNIP OFFSHORE, INC. (as §
substituted for TECHNIP §
CONTRACTORS, INC. f/k/a COFLEXIP §
STENA OFFSHORE, INC.) §
§
§

Plaintiff §
§

V. §
§

WILLIAMS FIELD SERVICES—GULF §
COAST COMPANY, L.P., AND §
WILLIAMS OIL GATHERING, LLC §
§
§

Defendants §
§

United States Courts
Southern District of Texas
FILED
JAN 21 2005
Michael N. Milby, Clerk

CIVIL ACTION NO. H-04-0096

PLAINTIFF AND COUNTER-DEFENDANT'S

ORIGINAL ANSWER TO DEFENDANTS' THIRD AMENDED

COUNTERCLAIM

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE ROSENTHAL:

Plaintiff and Counter-defendant, TECHNIP OFFSHORE, INC. (as substituted for TECHNIP CONTRACTORS, INC. F/K/A COFLEXIP STENA OFFSHORE, INC.) ("Technip"), respectfully files this Original Answer to the Third Amended Counterclaim filed with the Court by Defendants and Counter-plaintiffs, WILLIAMS FIELD SERVICES — GULF COAST COMPANY, L.P., and WILLIAMS OIL GATHERING, LLC (collectively "Defendants") and would respectfully show the Court the following:

A. Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Technip's Original Answer to Defendants' Counterclaim

1. Technip admits that the project is referred to as the Devils Tower Project; however, Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 118 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

2. Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph 119 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

3. Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 120 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

4. Technip admits that it discussed the engineering, procurement and installation services associated with the Export Pipelines with Defendants during the early part of 2001; however, Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 121 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

5. Technip admits that it discussed the engineering, procurement and installation associated with the Export Pipelines with Defendants, however, Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 122 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

6. Technip admits that its predecessor Coflexip Stena Offshore, Inc. signed the EPIC Contract with Defendants with an effective date of August 13, 2001; however, Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 123 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

7. Technip admits that the EPIC Contract addresses the pre-lay of the Export Pipelines and the SCR(s); however, Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or

deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 124 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

8. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 125.
9. Technip admits that Exhibit A of the EPIC Contract sets forth the payment schedule for the project; however, Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 126 and, therefore, denies such allegations.
10. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 127.
11. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 128.
12. Technip admits that a meeting was conducted between representatives of Technip and Defendants on or about January 15, 2003 and that Defendants stated that other parties would be performing certain work on the Devils Tower Project in mid-March, 2003; however, Technip denies the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 129.
13. Technip admits at least one inquiry by Defendants from Technip as to the schedule for the pre-lay activities and that Technip advised Defendants that the Vessel would not be available for remaining work until after March 20, 2003; however, Technip denies the remaining factual allegations contained in paragraph 130.
14. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 131.
15. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 132.
16. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 133.
17. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 134.
18. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 135.

19. Technip admits that it submitted the COR # 7, COR # 10, COR # 16, COR # 17, COR # 18, Rev. 1, COR # 21, COR # 23, Rev. 1, COR # 24, Rev. 1, COR #25, COR # 26, COR # 27, COR # 28, Rev. 2, COR # 29, Rev. 2, COR # 33, Rev. 1, COR # 34, Rev. 1, COR # 40 and COR # 41 *inter alia* to Defendants; however, Technip denies the remaining factual allegations contained in paragraph 136.

20. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 137.

21. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 138.

22. Technip admits that Article 23.5 of the EPIC Contract discusses the subject of liquidated damages; however, Technip denies the remaining factual allegations contained in paragraph 139.

23. Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph 140 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

24. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 141.

25. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 142.

26. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 143.

27. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 144.

28. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 145.

29. Technip admits that Section 4.8.1 of Exhibit B of the EPIC Contract states as set forth in paragraph 146; however, Technip denies the remaining factual allegations contained in paragraph 146.

30. Technip denies that Technip has breached any provisions of the EPIC Contract and Technip lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 147 and, therefore, denies such allegations.

31. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 148.
32. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 149.
33. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 150.
34. Technip admits that the quoted language is correctly cited from the Epic Contract in paragraph 151.
35. Technip admits the factual allegations contained in the first sentence of paragraph 152, however, Technip denies the remainder of the factual allegations contained in paragraph 152.
36. Technip denies the factual allegations contained in paragraph 153.
37. Technip denies the factual allegations contained in paragraph 154.
38. Technip denies the factual allegations contained in paragraph 155.
39. Technip in answer to paragraph 156 of the Counterclaim, incorporates its admissions and denials to paragraphs 118 through 155 referenced above in this Original Answer.
40. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 156.
41. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 157.
42. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 158.
43. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 159.
44. Technip in answer to paragraph 160 of the Counterclaim, incorporates its admissions and denials to paragraphs 118 through 155 referenced above in this Original Answer.
45. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 161.
46. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 162.

47. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 163.
48. Technip denies the factual allegations in paragraph 164.
49. Technip denies that the Defendants are entitled to the relief requested in i)-iii) of the section entitled Relief Requested.

B. Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Technip's Affirmative Defense to Defendants' Counterclaim

50. Defendants' counter-claims are barred because Defendants failed to perform all conditions precedent necessary to recover from Technip.

51. Defendants' damages, if any, should be reduced by the amount attributed to Defendants' failure to mitigate its damages.

52. Defendants' counter-claims are barred because Defendants materially breached the Contract prior to the alleged material breach by Technip.

53. Defendants' counter-claims are barred by the affirmative defense of excuse.

54. Defendants' counter-claims are barred by the doctrine of estoppel.

55. Defendants' counter-claims are barred by the doctrine of waiver.

56. Defendants' counter-claims are barred based on Defendants' assumption of the risk.

57. Defendants' counter-claims are barred due to a failure of consideration.

58. Defendants' counter-claims are barred by laches.

59. Defendants' counter-claims are barred by the affirmative defense of release.

60. Plaintiff also asserts the parol evidence rule as an affirmative defense barring the introduction of evidence outside the Contract.

61. Plaintiff also asserts that some or all of Defendants' counter-claims are not ripe and such un-ripe counter-claims are barred.

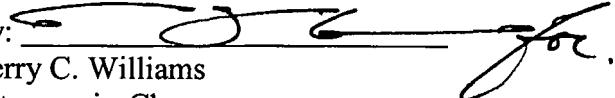
62. Plaintiff also asserts that Defendants' have not suffered any damages for some or all of Defendants' counter-claims and, to the extent damages have not been suffered Defendants' counter-claims are barred.

63. Plaintiff also asserts that Defendants' counter claims are barred and/or limited due to the doctrine of offset/credit/set off.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Technip Offshore, Inc. prays that Defendants/Counter-Plaintiffs Williams Field Services – Gulf Coast Company, L.P. and Williams Oil Gathering, LLC, take nothing and that Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant be awarded its attorney's fees and costs and all other relief to which Technip Offshore, Inc. may be justly entitled.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, this 2/4 day of January, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 21st day of January, 2005 a copy of the foregoing instrument was served upon the following persons by certified mail return receipt requested:

John D. White

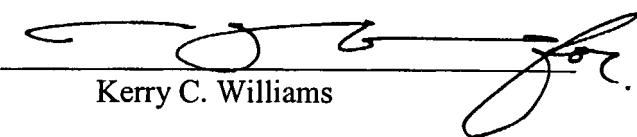
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